

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:BTUA:MLEVITSKY:REH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CGEN, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONTROLS

REF; A. MOSCOW 3328, B. MOSCOW 2225, C. STATE 042728

1. OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, BILATERAL RELATIONS, EUR/SOV,
INFORMED SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
KAVALEROV ON APRIL 1 THAT THE AREAS IN THE US TEMPORARILY
CLOSED TO TRAVEL BY OFFICIAL SOVIET PERSONNEL IN 1974 IN
RETALIATION FOR SOVIET CLOSURE OF CHINESE BORDER AREAS
WOULD AGAIN BE REOPENED EFFECTIVE MAY 1. WE STATED THAT
THIS ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN UNILATERALLY IN THE SPIRIT
OF CSCE PROVISIONS TO PROMOTE FREER TRAVEL AND THAT
AMBASSADOR STOESSEL HAD INFORMED KORNIYENKO OF OUR PLANS
FOR THIS INITIATIVE DURING DISCUSSION OF CSCE IMPLEMENTA-
TION ON MARCH 3 (REF A). WE INDICATED THAT WE WERE NOT
TYING THIS INITIATIVE TO ANY SPECIFIC SOVIET RECIPROCAL
ACTION, BUT THAT, OF COURSE, WE WOULD EXPECT SOVIET GOVERN-
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MENT TO ACT IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD

TO HEARING OF ITS PLANS ON THE TRAVEL CONTROLS QUESTION. WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE NOT SUGGESTING SPECIFICALLY THAT THE CHINESE BORDER AREAS BE REOPENED BUT THAT WE LEFT ANY SOVIET ACTION ENTIRELY UP TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

2. KAVALEROV SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY WELCOMED THIS STEP AND WOULD BE REPORTING US INITIATIVE TO MFA. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE MIGHT BE BUT THAT CLEARLY TRAVEL CONTROLS REDUCTION SHOULD BE A TWO-WAY STREET.

3. AT SAME MEETING KAVALEROV SAID SOVIET EMBASSY HAD QUERIED MFA ABOUT NEW REQUIREMENT THAT US EMBASSY MUST COORDINATE CONSULAR REQUESTS FOR CLOSED AREA TRAVEL WITH MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION BEFORE PROTOCOL DIVISION COULD ACT ON THEM (REF B). HE SAID MFA HAD REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH NEW REQUIREMENT AND THAT NO ONE IN MFA HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEVY IT ON THE EMBASSY. KAVALEROV SAID THAT AS IN THE PAST ONLY PROTOCOL DIVISION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL MATTERS, AND ONLY THAT DIVISION NEED BE INFORMED. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THIS IS SOVIET PRACTICE NOW. KISSINGER

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